

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 2014

Humayun Chaudhry, DO, FACP
President and CEO
Federation of State Medical Boards
400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300
Euless, TX 76039

Jon Thomas, MD, MBA
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Federation of State Medical Boards
400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300
Euless, TX 76039

Dear Dr. Chaudhry and Dr. Thomas,

We write to congratulate you on the efforts the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and its member medical boards have made on advancing solutions towards multistate practice through more efficient sharing of medical licensure information. The advancement of telehealth technology as a tool to facilitate access to care is contingent upon streamlining the licensing process for highly qualified physicians seeking to practice in multiple jurisdictions.

FSMB and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Taskforce have made important progress. We support changes to improve the process for physicians to submit the necessary information and obtain the required credentials to practice via telehealth in multiple states. The representatives from state medical boards and experts in compact formation on the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Taskforce have expended many hours of effort to form a solution that will provide an avenue for the advancement of telehealth.

FSMB's appointment of a drafting team to use eight key consensus principles to shape a voluntary licensure compact is welcome progress to ensure timely decisions. As you continue this development process, we would like to express our support for an interstate compact to provide a solution to expedite the process whereby physicians can be licensed in multiple states and practice telemedicine in a safe and accountable manner.

Like you, we are committed to the advancement of telehealth technology in a way that preserves states' ability to regulate medicine within their borders and protect their patients. We agree that allowing states to share information while allowing each state to retain jurisdiction over physicians who choose to practice in the state is in the best interest of both physicians and patients.

Please keep us apprised of the progress FSMB makes to advance physicians' ability to be licensed to practice in multiple states via telemedicine.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator



THOMAS R. CARPER
United States Senator



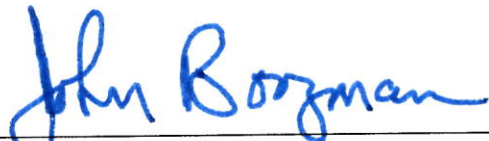
JOHN BARRASSO
United States Senator



TOM COBURN, M.D.
United States Senator



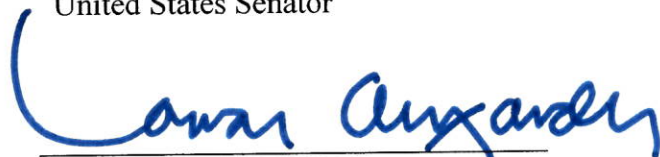
TIM JOHNSON
United States Senator



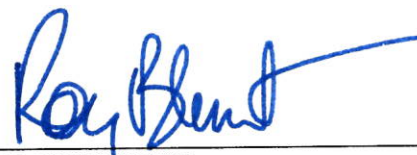
JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator



MICHAEL B. ENZI
United States Senator



LAMAR ALEXANDER
United States Senator



ROY BLUNT
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JOHNNY ISAKSON
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United States Senator



AL FRANKEN
United States Senator